1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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North Bahrain in 1635. A map taken from a Portuguese book on India (*see Chapter VIII*).

Photo : Courtesy of Royal Egyptian Geographical Society.

625

Bahrain State Police, Mounted Section.

Photo : K. P. Narayan.

south-west corner the town is deserted and in ruins. Also on this plain is the Abu Zaidan Mosque, built over a spring of the same name. This mosque has recently been repaired by the Government and is much used by the Shia people of Manama, especially by the women during weddings.

To the north of the Budaiya Road is the ruined mosque of Abu Mahara, a strange little building with two storeys and a tall column in the centre of the spring. This mosque was built in the year 889 A.H. (1484 A.D.) as shown by an inscription to this effect in its west wall.

There are many other mosques in Bahrain, some of which contain inscriptions giving the date of their foundation, but they are of comparatively recent date and the mosques themselves are of no architectural interest.

THE FORTS OF BAHRAIN

Portuguese and Persians, Arabs and Omanis, all these have at one time or another attacked and occupied Bahrain and have retained control of the islands by the construction and garrisoning of forts and castles. The oldest surviving fort in Bahrain is the Qalat al-Ajaj, built by the Portuguese some time after their occupation of Bahrain in 1521. This fort lies on the northern shore of Bahrain Island some three miles from Manama and the easiest way to visit it is by driving along the Manama-Budaiya Road and then by turning off to the north when the ruins of the fort can be seen through the date palms.

On the sea shore below the fort can be seen the steps by which the Portuguese entered their boats, but with the exception of these remains there are no relics of the Portuguese in Bahrain. A number of cannon have been found, but there is a surprising absence of inscriptions, coins or gravestones.

The exact date of the construction of the fort is not known, but the fort was repaired in 1562 and 1586, this need for continual repair was no doubt due to the many revolts which took place in Bahrain against the Portuguese. Shaikh Khalifah an-Nabhani, in his history of Bahrain, mentions that he visited the fort and saw this latter date inscribed in four places on the walls of the fort, but today there is no sign of these inscriptions.

Page 62 shows a map of north Bahrain Island and Muharraq taken from a Portuguese book of the seventeenth century. It is interesting to see that whereas the Portuguese fort, in fact, has five sides, with square towers at four corners and a turret at the fifth, in the map the fort appears as square in shape while the moat is five-sided. The fort is at present in such a bad state of repair that it is almost impossible to discover the purposes of the various towers and chambers found in it, but an idea can be obtained of the great skill and care that went into the making of the walls by an examination of the towers and wall on the west side of the fort. The moat is no longer filled by the sea due to its neglect, although after the expulsion of the Portuguese the fort continued to be used by the Persian garrison in Bahrain.

A further examination of the map reveals that in the time of the

Portuguese there was a church in Bahrain (bottom left-hand corner) and it is possible that the ruins that can be seen by the side of the road leading to the fort were once a church. Also in the map is a village of black-roofed houses with one tall minaret-like building, probably the Suq al-Khamis Mosque, whose twin minarets, as stated above, are of comparatively recent origin. The map also shows a number of small black houses facing on to a bay, these could represent the town of Manama, then a village, which is known to have existed in the time of the Portuguese. What is more surprising is the large two-storeyed fort on Muharraq Island ; this cannot be explained as easily as the other items, for there is to-day only one fort on Muharraq Island, that of Arad, which is known to have been built by the Omanis in 1800. It could be that they built their fort on the ruins of another older one, but it is also possible that this fort represents Muharraq town, which, until comparatively recently, was protected by a wall. On the map to the right of the fort is a small building with two flags, probably the tomb of some local notable, and to the left of the fort there is another group of houses representing either Muharraq or one of the coastal villages. Finally there is the island of Abu Mahir, whose fort is indicated by a small tower set in the sea to the left of Muharraq Island. The book from which this map is taken is in the Bibliothéque Nationale de Paris and the map is here reproduced by kindness of the Royal Geographical Society of Egypt.

Some miles south of the Jebal ad-Dukhan there is a hill called 'Amr and crowning it is a fort, a simple construction of loose stones, built, according to tradition, by Shaikh Jabbara, who became ruler of Bahrain about 1698 A.D. Far from gardens and fresh water, this fort was in fact in an ideal position from which to guard Bahrain against foreign enemies, for the sea is visible to the east and the west. The story of Shaikh Jabbara will be told in Part III.

The palace of Shaikh Farir is said to have been situated at Rifaa ash-Sharqi, overlooking the central plain of Bahrain island and, to-day, the oil town of Awali. The fort of Rifaa ash-Sharqi in its present form was built by Shaikh Sulman bin Ahmed al-Khalifah, one of the early Khalifah rulers, who started work on it in 1812. The wooden doors that he caused to be set up can still be seen at the entrance to the house of the Amir of Rifaa, the inscriptions that they bear, when the numerical values of the letters are added up, indicate that the fort was built in the above year.

Returning to Manama, we pass the Qalat ad-Diwan, to-day used as the H.Q. of the Bahrain State Police. Although this fort has been modernised, the main outline is still recognisable as it was built on the orders of Nadir Shah, after he seized Bahrain in 1739. This fort contained the Persian garrison in Bahrain till they were expelled by the Khalifah. Shaikh Isa (1869-1932) often used the Qalat ad-Diwan as his summer palace until it was taken over by the Police.

In Muharraq Island a rather comic toy-like fort sits on the seashore of Arad Bay [redacted] Muharraq town. A simple construction of

172 712 high walls around a central courtyard are all that it consists of, and some of the Omani guns still remain in the towers. The fort was built in 1800 by the Ruler of Muscat, Sultan bin Ahmed, who in that year seized Bahrain from the Khalifah and sent his brother, Sayed Said, to govern the Islands they were soon expelled but later returned. The Muscatis remained in their fort for nine years, but after their expulsion in 1809 by the Khalifah-Saudi alliance the fort was left deserted.

Near Muharraq town is the fort of Abu Mahur, already mentioned in connection with the Portuguese map and named after one of the largest undersea springs in Bahrain, which is situated near it. The fort, which dominates the southern approach to Muharraq and Manama, was built on the island-peninsular of Abu Mahur by Shaikh Abdulla al-Khalifah, who ruled jointly with his brother Sulman, builder of the fort at Rifaa ash-Sharqi. In 1843 Shaikh Abdulla was expelled from Bahrain by his son Muhammad, who was also unable to enjoy a peaceful reign, for after a dispute with Qatar Muhammad was replaced as Ruler of Bahrain by his brother Ali and the British shelled the fort of Abu Mahur, which was destroyed with the exception of one tower. [744] More recently the remains of the fort and the island was given to the Baluchi retainers of the Khalifah, but in 1930 the Baluchis were given land elsewhere and the island was turned into a Quarantine Station. This is therefore a fort which visitors are not advised to visit.

THE QANATS

312 172 "Qanat" is the Arabic name for the underground water channels which are found in many parts of Bahrain, particularly in the south-west of the island. Here, among others, is a long channel running inland from Sadad, another brings water to Karzarkan from the spring called Ijraiyi, a mile and a half to the north, and a third channel runs from the spring of Malakiya to the village of the same name. These are but a few of the many channels in Bahrain.

312 171 These channels are present in great numbers in Persia and are also found in eastern Saudi-Arabia and Syria. It is probable that those in Bahrain were first built by the Persians. It is stated in at least one history that they were the work of the Persian King Anushirvan who captured Bahrain from the Arabs in the fourth century A.D. They have often been mentioned by travellers to Bahrain and in a local history it is stated that during a war that took place in the eighth century between the people of Bahrain and an army sent by the Caliph, the Bahrainis made good use of these same channels by passing through them till they reached the rear of the enemy forces and then making a successful surprise attack.

312 172 The channels were built to prevent the wastage of water from evaporation which would have occurred had the water been carried in surface channels, By this method the water is sheltered from the sun and its flow is not hindered by falls of sand or the movements of sand dunes. It seems that the channels were first built as open ditches and then roofed with slabs of sea rock, called feroush. The roofs of the channels are sloping and after construction they were covered with sand to the

361 when the date pickers descend on the village and put up their barastis.
245 Lower Sehlah is reached by a bridge across the water channel that borders the Manama-Awali Road. This village is surrounded by date gardens and can also be reached by a footpath from Adari. The gardens in the neighbourhood of the two villages are among the best and most thriving in Bahrain, and the date groves are locally described as the hump of Bahrain, not because they rise above the surrounding lands but on account of their being the richest and most fertile in the islands.

AALI

361 After leaving the palm belt and entering the plain north of Rifaa, thick smoke can usually be seen rising from among some date gardens to the west, this is the village of Aali, one of the largest in Bahrain. It lies on the western edge of the plain which extends from the end of the date gardens at the bridge of Radhm al-Qawari to the Rifaa hills, and is close to a group of the largest tumuli in Bahrain which are a conspicuous feature of the landscape of Bahrain island. The largest mounds in the Aali group are over 80 feet high and 100 feet in diameter.
[491] The best road to Aali is the one indicated by the sign-post on Awal Road, a short distance from Radhm al-Qawari. The houses of this
[342] village are better than in most of the Bahrain villages; they are large and airy and some of them have blocks of stone from the tombs in their walls. As in the case of so many Bahrain villages, Aali stands on a slight elevation surrounded by date gardens.

RIFAA AL-GHARBI

644 Straddling Awal Road on the edge of the rim-rock is the town of
361 West Rifaa, the winter residence of H.H. The Ruler of Bahrain as well as of many of his family and retainers. This settlement is comparatively modern, having been built by the present Ruler before he succeeded in 1942. Constructed in the traditional Arab pattern, the Palace is in the centre of the town and the other houses are widely scattered about it. The Ruler's love of gardens has caused the road to be lined with trees, and it is a pleasant surprise on coming across the desert surrounding the town to pass through a shady green avenue. During the three months of the Summer the Ruler lives in Manama, but as soon as the cool weather returns a long procession of cars and lorries moves slowly out of Rifaa, the lights go on, and overnight the appearance of West Rifaa is changed from a deserted town to a scene of much activity.

RIFAA ASH-SHARQI

361 This is the fourth largest town in Bahrain and has a population
712 of about 3,000. East Rifaa is without doubt the most picturesque of Bahrain's towns and villages. When approached from the west, from the plain near Awali, the fortress, which dominates the valley, presents a most romantic appearance and carries one's thoughts back

to the days when the Rulers of Bahrain lived here and ruled the Islands from the castle. Below the fortresss is the spring of Hanani, whose water is the best in Bahrain, and a plain where, in the rainy season, a small lake forms and on disappearing leaves in its place a bright lawn of grass. Rifaa has been expanding rapidly during recent years, the town is spreading to the south-east, and it now possesses boys' and girls' schools and a Municipality. Some members of the Ruling Family still live in the town which has expanded owing to the development of the oil industry, in which some 500 of its male inhabitants are working.

The situation of the town is ideal for strategical purposes, from it it is possible to see Manama, Muharraq and Sitra while the land around it is free of vegetation which could have served to hide the enemy. It has an excellent climate and is drier than Manama in the summer. To the north of the town are two small graves where members of the Khalifah family are buried; these fell in battle during a civil war which took place in the 19th century.

There is a tradition connected with the fortress of Rifaa. It is said to have been built in the 17th century by the Wazir of the then Ruler, a certain Shaikh Jabbara. For years the Ruler and his wazir worked together, but one day the Shaikh was told about the beauty of the wazir's wife, and he desired her. He was tricked into believing that he had visited her, though in fact he was entertained by her maid-servant. He was so angry at the deception, about which the wazir knew nothing, that he killed him. The Wazir's widow thereupon fled from Rifaa to the mainland, from where she wrote to the Shah of Persia sending him a minature palm tree of pearls and gold and saying that so rich was Bahrain that such a tree was given to a child as a toy. She succeeded in exciting the avarice of the Persian Shah, who sent an army to Bahrain, defeated and killed Shaikh Jabbara, and annexed the Islands to Persia, thus avenging the Wazir's wife. This same Shaikh Jabbara is said to have lived in the fort of Amr, south-east of the Jebel, which is mentioned in Chapter VIII.

There is a third Rifaa, a small community built by BAPCO for its Indian and Pakstani employees; this is mentioned in the Chapter on Bahrain's Oil.

AWALI

Meaning "The High Places," this name was given by Shaikh Hamed, the late Ruler of Bahrain, to the oil camp when it was first established in its present location. Before the oil company arrived in Bahrain the site was deserted—for who would live in the middle of a waterless desert? But the company wanted to build their town near the oil field, and so the small, 240 foot, hill was chosen. Today Awali somewhat resembles a London surburb or a small American town. As in London, varied gardens and different coloured exteriors of the houses serve to disguise their basic similarity. In these gardens children play while their mothers chat to each other over the fences. Happy

'1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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A Public Garden in Manama. *Photo : The Author.*

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The Manama Fort.

Muharraq Island

101 This is the second largest island of the group and in all probability the "Aradus" of the classical writers. It is located northeast of Bahrein and is about five and a half square miles in area, horseshoe shaped and only a mile wide. It is separated [491] from Bahrein by a channel spanned by a causeway a mile and a half long with a motor road and by a swinging bridge which was completed in 1941.

361 The chief city is MUHURRAQ, on the western side, the sec-
162 ond largest city in the islands and the summer residence of the
633 Sheik. Its population is about 26,000. Muhurraq and Manama, on Bahrein Island, are each administered by a Municipal Committee which in addition to civic duties are jointly responsible for the upkeep of thirty per cent of the roads in the archipelago.

361 Other towns among the sixteen or more on Muhurraq which
162 should be mentioned are:

ARAD. This is an important date producing center with some sixteen thousand palm trees, on the southern shore of the Gulf of Arad. It is inhabited by the Baharinah.

HADD. Second in importance only to Muhurraq, Hadd is the leading pearl fishing center of the islands. It has a population of almost 10,000, consisting of Sādāt and Beni Yās. Since the English began to take a direct hand in the administration of the island it has become possibly the most modern of the cities, [242] with many up-to-date homes and an agricultural experiment [697] station as well as a modern penitentiary and the cottage of the British Financial Adviser.

The villages of Basatin, Qalali, Samahij and Dair, on the north and northeast coasts, are also important. Their population follows the Sunnite faith exclusively and those in Qalali belong to the Manani'a tribe.

508 Muhurraq Island has a military and civil airfield used by
712 the British Overseas Air Service. The field has limited fueling and repair facilities for normal traffic as well as minimum lighting, runway lights, and lighted wind indicators. There are hard surface, all weather runways with an elevation of two feet; the

longest runway, to the nearest hundred feet, is 7400 feet long. There are radio communication and direction finder with voice, and the Radio Bahrein tower operates on 6440 kilocycles, 117.9 mc.

The other principal islands of the Bahrein group are:

SITRA, which is separated from Bahrein by the Sitra Canal, which is about a quarter of a mile wide. The southern part of the island is completely barren but in the north there are small villages, mostly inhabited by Baharinah farmers and fishermen. The most important are Wadiyan, Kharijia, Muhazza and Sufala, all of which are important date growing centers.

NABBI SĀLIH, the smallest of the five islands, situated about three quarters of a mile off the coast of Bahrein. There are palm groves and two small fishing centers, Kaflan and Karya. The island has many gardens and orchards as well as palm groves with some fifteen thousand trees. It is entirely inhabited by the Baharinah.

UMM NA'SAN, two miles west of Bahrein, a low and sandy island four miles long and triangular in shape. The island is dominated by two rocky peaks, one rising to an elevation of sixty-six feet at about half a mile from the western point of the island, and the other twenty-five feet high situated about half a mile farther to the east. Near the west coast there is a water source used by the people of the west coast of Bahrein, mostly the towns of Badaiya'a and Zallāq, whose custom it is to send their cattle to graze there during the summer.

Besides these principal islands there are a number of smaller ones, mostly inhabited. From north to south and west to east these are:

KHASAIFA.

JARDI.

SAYA, with its fresh water spring, located about half a mile off the west coast of Muharraq Island.

ABU MAHIR, a small island south of Muharraq and connected to it at low tide. There is a small fort on the island erected for the defense of the water source which formerly supplied the people of Muharraq.

6:Faroughy H-5 (no date)1951 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Supposedly because the Germans considered the demands too great, the negotiations fell through. 648

According to Cordell Hull, before going to the Moscow Conference, President Roosevelt felt that the Baltic passages—Kiel and the straits might each be set up as a free zone under international trustees, and that a similar zone might be arranged for Russia to the Persian Gulf.

Many waters have passed under the bridge since 1943; with open antagonism between the United States and Russia following the Cold War, and with the chance of open hostilities, the importance of the Persian Gulf as a strategic area has been brought to light.

In case of war, the American oil holdings in Saudi Arabia, and the Anglo-Iranian Company installations in Southern Persia, would be the first targets of an eventual enemy.

The American military air base of Dhahran in Saudi Arabia would be of no value without the English naval military bases on Bahrein Island. [712]

In short, the future of Bahrein will no doubt prove as complex as its past, but let us hope that wisdom will prevail; that the peace which is no doubt everybody's desire will be accomplished; and that a happy solution, satisfactory to all concerned, may be established.

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
Bahrain M22
Kuwait M11
Saudi Arabia MJ1

companies may need to be defined now that one concessionaire seems likely to create revenue; problems may also arise if, as a result of oil developments, it is planted with a population that will need to be endowed with public services and, no doubt, with a system of taxation.

BAHRAIN

The Bahrain Archipelago is a group of islands in the Gulf of Bahrain, which is bounded on the east by the Qatar Peninsula and on the west by the mainland coast of al-Hasa. Its total area is 213 square miles. The principal island—Bahrain itself—is about thirty miles long and ten miles wide. It is low-lying and its northern end is well watered by fresh water springs and produces good date crops. Citrus fruit and lucerne are also grown. The oilfields lie round the rocky cluster of hills known as Jebel Dukhan (Hill of Smoke), which is in the barren centre of the island.

To the north-east of Bahrain Island, and joined to it by a causeway and motor road, is the low, sandy island of Muharraq, and between the two islands is a good deep-water harbour (Khor Kaliya). It is used as a small British naval base; an American admiral also flies his flag there. Nearby there is a second, but shallow harbour (Bahrain harbour), which faces north and is usefully equipped. The natural aerodrome on Muharraq Island has been developed into the largest commercial airfield in the Persian Gulf and now serves the airliners of all nations. It is also used by the RAF, and the whine of jet aircraft is a commonplace. The south end of the island of Bahrain is low-lying and sandy. The climate, though oppressive in summer owing to the prevalent heat and damp of the western shores of the Persian Gulf, is more humid and less windy than that of Kuwait. The population of the Archipelago was 109,650 when a census was taken in 1950.[1]

The capital and the seat of government is the port of Manama.[2] It is generally referred to as Bahrain, and is situated between the two harbours. It has a population of 39,648, which includes many rich Arab, Persian, and Indian merchants, as well as some 300 Europeans and Americans. The second town, Muharraq, on Muharraq Island, has a population of 24,566 which is purely Arab.

The British Political Agency is in Manama town, which also boasts an electricity station, a wireless station, post offices, hospitals, clubs, public gardens, and up-to-date schools. The town is well supplied with good motor roads, and there are

[1] 1952 estimate, 115,000. [2] Population: 1950, 39,648; 1952 (estimate), 45,000.

S 648 with local rulers. These treaties place the native states virtually under British protection. The over-all direction of British relations with the various local countries is in the hands of the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, who has his seat in Bushire on the Persian side of the gulf, and fulfills also the function of British Consul General in Bushire. Under him serve so-called Political Agents who are stationed in the various states on the Arabian side of the gulf. Administratively, the Political Residency is subordinated to the Government of India and its officials belong to the Indian Political Service. The basic British policy with regard to the Persian Gulf states is therefore determined by the India Office and not by the Colonial Office.

2. Relations with the Individual States.

B 648 [12] a. Bahrein. The British position in Bahrein is stronger than anywhere else in the gulf area. After the abandonment of Basra, in Iraq, as a British naval base in 1935, a new base was established on Bahrein Island. From the British standpoint the island is thus the strategic center for their position in the gulf. Treaty relations with the Sheikh of Bahrein were first established by the East India Company in 1820. The present relationship is based upon agreements of 22 December 1880 and 13 March 1892. (18) By these instruments the

18. India, Foreign and Political Department, A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads Relating to India and Neighbouring Countries, edited by C. U. Aitchison, vol. 11, Delhi, 1933 (quoted in the following as Aitchison), pp. 237-39.

Sheikh bound himself not to enter, without British consent, into any relationship with a foreign government other than the British. He further promised not to dispose of any part of his territory to anybody except the British government. As a result of these stipulations, which are very close to those contained in the treaties with Protectorate rulers, the foreign relations of Bahrein were brought under full British control. The treaties with Bahrein do not contain any clause expressly extending British protection to the country. Nevertheless, Bahrein can be regarded as a British-protected state enjoying a large degree of

B 648 642